

Excerpt from Interrogation of ARAKI, Sadao

13 February 1946
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"Q. General, what I want to know now is -- after the decision of the Imperial Conference, how did you order the completion of the occupation of these four provinces?

"A. We immediately decided to send the troops to Fengtien Province. The principal plan was made in the War Ministry's order to General Headquarters, and they took the procedure of sending the troops for operation.

"Q. Who signed the order? Did you, General? The order to General Headquarters?

"A. The principal plan approved by the conference as a matter of procedure I signed.

"Q. General, can you recall what was in the order that you signed?

"A. I don't remember.

"Q. Would it be in the files of the War Ministry?

"A. I don't know that. It was so long ago that I am not sure whether we could find the document or not.

"Q. It was approved by the Emperor, was it not?

"A. The Emperor knew about the plan, however the order was issued by the Advisor, and as to the written order a document as old as ten years they would usually destroy."